

Serial No. 09/988,811

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-8, 43-48 and 60-67 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 43 and 60 are the independent claims. Applicants have cancelled Claims 9-42 and 49-59 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections

In the Office Action dated July 11, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner believes that the original 67 claims, taken as a whole, recite an undue multiplicity of claims, which would tend to obfuscate, confuse and becloud the claimed invention. While Applicants do not agree that the original 67 claims were unreasonable in number or would tend to obfuscate, confuse and becloud the claimed invention, Applicants have substantially reduced the pending claim set in order to advance the prosecution of this application. More specifically, Applicants have cancelled Claims 9-42 and 49-59 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application directed to the cancelled claims at a later date.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that a total of twenty claims, including no more than six independent claims, should be sufficient to properly define Applicants' invention. After entry of the foregoing amendments, the present application will include twenty-two total claims, including three independent claims. Applicants believe that they have complied with the spirit of the Office Action and respectfully submit that consideration of twenty-two claims, as opposed to twenty claims, will not impose a serious burden on the Examiner.

Serial No. 09/988,811

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the foregoing as a full and complete response to the Non-Final Office Action dated July 11, 2005. Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Cangialosi for consideration of these remarks. If any issues exist that can be resolved with an Examiner's Amendment or a telephone conference, please contact the undersigned at 404.572.4647.

Respectfully submitted,



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